

Message Text

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14

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /038 W

----- 025041

R 250613 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3756

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, EIND, SA

SUBJ: GM BUS SALE

REF: STATE 075099

1. AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH SHARBATLY REPS, GM AND ZAHID IT OUR OPINION THAT SHARBATLY CLAIM AGAINST GM SO PATENTLY ABSURD THAT NO USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY ADDITIONAL LTTTER TO SHARBATLY.

2. SHARBATLY HAS LOCAL REPUTATION AS SHREWD OPERATOR AND INTELLIGENT, SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN. HIS CLAIM THAT HE, IN EFFECT, DID NOT KNOW WHAT HE WAS BUYING IS NOT BELIEVABLE. ZAHID AND GM HAVE COPIES OF SPECIFICATIONS INITIALED BY SHARBATLY. ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR COMPLAINT IS THAT SHARBATLY WAS CAUGHT BY LOCAL POLICE DURING PILGRIMAGE WITH BUSES SO OVERLOADED AS TO CONSTITUTE A SAFETY HAZARD. HE NOW TRYING TO PUT BLAME ON GM AND ZAHID. SHARBATLY DOES NOT CLAIM THAT GM- SUPPLIED CHASSIS AND ENGINES ARE OLDER THAN 1973 MODELS, BUT STATES BUS BODIES QUOTE LOOK SAME AS 1958 MODLES UNQUOTE. EMBASSY HAS EXPLAINED TO SHARBATLY THAT NEW BUS BODIES DIFFER LITTLE FROM PREVIOUS MODLES IN APPEARANCE.

3. SINCE EMBASSY WOULD HAVE TO TELL SHARBATLY THAT WE CONSIDER HIS COMPLAINT NOTHING MORE THAN HARRASSMENT,
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WE HAVE CAREFULLY AVOIDED GOING ANY FURTHER THAN POINT-
ING OUT SOME OF THE MORE UNREASONABLE ASPECTS OF HIS
CHARGES. AT THIS POINT , ZAHID AND SHARBATLY STILL NEGOT-
IATING AND EMBASSY FEELS THAT WE SHOULD NOT TAKE ANY
FURTHER ACTION UNTIL REQUESTED BY GM OR ZAHID.
HORAN

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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